

# **Indiana telegraph and telephone collection**

## **L223**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

April 20, 2016

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts  
140 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204  
317-232-3671

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Rare Books and Manuscripts
<b>Title</b>	Indiana telegraph and telephone collection
<b>Date</b>	1893-1920, undated
<b>Extent</b>	0.5 Cubic feet 1 manuscript box, 1 small manuscript box
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Mixed materials [Box]</b>	1
<b>Container</b>	1

### Preferred Citation

Indiana telegraph and telephone collection, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

## Historical Note

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The telegraph was first demonstrated in 1838 by Samuel Morse. Congress funded the first telegraph lines in 1843 and the first news (the nomination of Henry Clay for president) was transmitted in 1844. Western Union built its first transcontinental telegraph line in 1861, mainly along railroad rights-of-way.

"Until 1877, all rapid long-distance communication depended upon the telegraph. That year, a rival technology developed that would again change the face of communication -- the telephone. By 1879, patent litigation between Western Union and the infant telephone system was ended in an agreement that largely separated the two services."

The first telephones in Indianapolis were installed in 1877 by Wales and Company, an Indianapolis coal supply firm. Indiana District Telephone Company, the state's first telephone company, was organized in Dec. 1878. It became the Telephone Exchange Company of Indianapolis in 1880. Central Union Telephone Company, Indiana Bell Telephone Company's direct predecessor, was organized in 1883. At that time, there were three telephone companies serving Indianapolis. Central Union and four other Indiana telephone companies were consolidated into Indiana Bell in 1920.

"Ameritech". (1994). In "Encyclopedia of Indianapolis." Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press. (pp. 260-261). Print. ISLI 977.201 M341ien

"The History of the Electric Telegraph and Telegraphy." Retrieved 2016/04/04. <http://inventors.about.com/od/tstartinventions/a/telegraph.htm>

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection includes correspondence, blueprints and Indianapolis maps, legal documents and reports from telephone and telegraph companies lawyers insurance companies and city officials in Indianapolis, Indiana ranging from 1893-1920 regarding telegraph and telephone right of ways, installation, legal and business matters.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged alphabetically.

## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Rare Books and Manuscripts

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

### Custodial History

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a donation.

### Accruals

No further additions are expected.

### Processing Information

Collection processing completed 2016/04/04 by Edythe Huffman. EAD finding aid created 2016/04/04 by Edythe Huffman.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Corporate Name(s)

- Central Union Telephone Company (Indianapolis, Ind.).
- Indiana Bell Telephone Company.
- New Telephone Company.
- Postal Telegraph-Cable Company.

- Western Union Telegraph Company.

**Subject(s)**

- Telegraph--History--Indiana
- Telephone--History--Indiana

## Collection Inventory

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Central Union Telephone Company documents, 1895-1919	1	1
Indiana Bell Telephone Company documents, 1920	1	2
Indianapolis Telephone Company documents, 1908-1914	1	3
Indianapolis Telephone Company documents, 1916-1918	1	4
Miscellaneous blueprints and maps, undated	1	5
New Telephone Company documents, 1898-1905	1	6
New Telephone Company documents, 1906-1917; undated	2	1
Postal Telegraph-Cable Company documents, 1896-1917	2	2
Joint Telephone Committee report, 1908	2	3
Western Union Telegraph Company documents, 1893-1918	2	4